

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed August 17, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 11, 13 – 15 and 18 - 20 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 11, 14 and 18, and has canceled claims 12 and 16 - 17 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 12 and 16 - 17 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 5, 7 – 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Kurachi*. As set forth above, Applicant has canceled claim 12 and 16 – 17, and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Turning first to *Kurachi*, that patent discloses a print managing system and print managing method. Specifically, *Kurachi* teaches:

At first, *when a print command is inputted in the client apparatus 201 or 202, print data in a form of the page description language is generated by the print data generating device 1a* (Step S51). Next, it is determined whether or not the encryption of this print data is necessary (Step S52). If the encryption is instructed by an operation of a user (Step S52; YES), *the print data is encrypted by the print data encryption device 201g* (Step S53). However, if the encryption is not instructed (Step S52; NO), the encryption is not performed.

Next, the print data is sent to the printer 203 by the print data sending device 1c (Step S54), and received by the print data receiving device 3a of the printer 203 (Step S60). Now, it is determined whether or not the decryption of the print data is necessary, i.e., the print data is encrypted (Step S61). If the print data is encrypted (Step 61; YES), it is decrypted by the print data decryption device 203j (Step S62). If the print data is not encrypted (Step S61; NO), the decryption is not necessary and the print data is stored in a spool area by the print data storing device 3b (Step S63). Then, rough image data based on the received print data is produced by the rough image producing device 3g (Step S64). The rough image data is stored by the rough image storing device 3h while correlated to the based print data (Step S65). Then, the print data is managed by the print job managing device 3d for each print job, and sequentially printed. (Kurachi, Col. 15, lines 14 – 40). (Emphasis Added).

As set for in the exemplary teaching of *Kurachi* above, Applicant respectfully asserts that there is no disclosure in *Kurachi* that involves transmitting of data from a first peripheral device to a second peripheral device such as recited in the presently pending claims.

In this regard, claim 1 recites:

1. A method for sending a print job to a preselected recipient comprising: encoding a data stream received in a first peripheral device; and ***transmitting said encoded data stream from said first peripheral device to a second peripheral device.*** (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. In particular, Applicant has used the term “peripheral device” in accordance with its common and ordinary meaning. That is, a peripheral device is a device other than a host computer that is able to print print jobs. By way of example, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner’s attention to page 5, lines 4 – 5 of the application, which discloses “peripheral device 14 can include a network interface 18 and control hardware and software interface for managing and printing the print jobs.” Since *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose transmitting said encoded data stream from said first peripheral device to a second peripheral device, Applicant respectfully asserts that the

rejection is improper and should be removed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2 – 5 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1 and do not stand otherwise rejected in the Action, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 7, that claim recites:

7. A method for transporting print jobs comprising:
initiating a print job on a host computer;
encrypting said print job; and
transmitting said encrypted print job from a first peripheral device to a second peripheral device.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 7. Since *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose transmitting said encrypted print job from a first peripheral device to a second peripheral device, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection is improper and should be removed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 8 – 10 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 7 and do not stand otherwise rejected in the Action, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Claim 11 recites:

11. A method for providing a secure print job comprising:
initiating a print job on a host computer;
transmitting said print job to a first peripheral device;
encrypting said print job at the first peripheral device; and
transmitting said encrypted print job from said first peripheral device to a second peripheral device.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 11. Since *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose transmitting said encrypted print job from said first peripheral device to a second peripheral device, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection is improper and should be removed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Since claim 13 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 11 and does not stand otherwise rejected in the Action, Applicant respectfully asserts that this claim also is in condition for allowance. Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Claim 14 recites:

14. A printing system comprising:
a first peripheral device comprising:
a processor for receiving a data stream through a network;
an encryption module for converting said data stream from plain text to cipher text; and
a sender module for transmitting said cipher text through said network to a preselected recipient; and
a second peripheral device operative to communicatively couple to the network and receive the cipher text from the first peripheral device.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 14. Since *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose a second peripheral device operative to communicatively couple to the

network and receive the cipher text from the first peripheral device, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection is improper and should be removed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 15 and 18 and 20 are dependent claims that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 14 and do not stand otherwise rejected in the Action, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 6 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kurachi*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Specifically, Applicant has set forth various deficiencies of the *Kurachi* reference under the section of this response entitled “Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102.” As the Office Action does not remedy these deficiencies, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is also deficient. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that the *Kurachi* references does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations recited in independent claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, or independent claim 14, from which dependent claim 19 depends. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections are improper and that these claims are in condition for allowance.

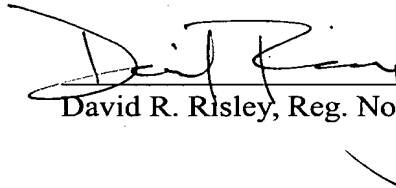
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

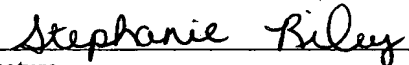
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 9/2/04.


Signature